

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, all of which stand rejected. In the final Office Action mailed on March 3, 2004 (paper no. 15), the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 13, 14 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,547,829 to Meyerzon et al. ("Meyerzon"), and rejected claims 3, 6, 12, 15, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyerzon. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections. Further examination and review in view of the remarks below are respectfully requested.

Applicant's techniques are directed to seeding a search system for searching for media on a communications network. A search term is provided to a search system. In response to the provided search term, the search system returns a search result comprising metadata associated to media available through a communications network. The search result is later parsed for metadata, and the parsed metadata is then provided back to the search system as a seed for a subsequent search operation.

All of the claims stand rejected over Meyerzon. Meyerzon describes a web crawler application that takes advantage of a document store's ability to provide a content identifier (CID) having a value that is a unique function of the physical storage location of a data object or document, or, alternatively, a unique function of the content of the document. (Meyerzon, Abstract; col. 2 line 64-col. 3, line 4). In operation, the crawler first tries to fetch the CID for a document. If the CID attribute is not supported by the document store, the crawler fetches the document itself, filters it to obtain a hash function, and commits the document to an index if the hash function is not present in a history table. (emphasis added) (Meyerzon, Abstract; col. 3 lines 4-10). If the CID is available from the document store, the CID is fetched from the document store, and the crawler determines whether the CID is present in the history table, which indicates whether an identical copy of the document in question has already been indexed under a different URL. (Meyerzon, Abstract; col. 3 lines 11-16). If the CID is present in the history table, the new URL is placed in the history file, but the document itself is not retrieved from the document store, nor is it filtered again to obtain a CID. (Meyerzon,

Abstract; col. 3 lines 16-20). If the CID is not present in the history table, the full document is retrieved and indexed. (Meyerzon, Abstract; col. 3 lines 20-22).

Claim 1 recites "providing said parsed metadata to said search system as a seed for a subsequent search operation." The Examiner seems to indicate that Internet searching by means of web crawlers that iterate the crawling process by using results derived from one crawl to seed later crawls (Meyerzon, col. 4, lines 43-65) corresponds to Applicant's technique of providing parsed metadata to a search system as a seed for a subsequent search operation.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Contrary to the Examiner's understanding and interpretation of the cited reference of Meyerzon, Meyerzon at col. 4, lines 44-47 discloses that "the transaction log is seeded with one or more document address specifications, which are used to retrieve the document associated with the address specification." This is no different than an initial crawl "wherein a transaction log is 'seeded' with one or more document address specifications" and "[e]ach document listed in the transaction log is retrieved from its Web site and processed." (Meyerzon, col. 4, lines 23-31). Thus, according to Meyerzon, document address specifications seed both the initial and subsequent crawls, and this is different than Applicant's technique of using metadata parsed from a search result from a prior search operation as a seed for a subsequent search operation.

Additionally, the Examiner seems to indicate that Meyerzon at col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 45 discloses the claimed element of "receiving at least one search result from said search system in view of a performed search using said search term, wherein said search result comprises metadata associated with said media." The Examiner explicitly stated in the Office Action that "[t]he search performed on the basis of an initial search criteria such as keywords provides results in the form of content identifiers (CID) that are placed in a History Table and compared to URLs encountered during a crawl" and that "[a] CID, a URL, and an index entry at least comprise metadata associated with a search result." (Office Action, p. 2).

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Applicant respectfully disagrees. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that an initial search provides results in the form of CIDs, Meyerzon at col. 3, lines 5-13 discloses that a crawler first tries to fetch the CID for a document based upon the document's address specification. If the CID is supported by and available from the document store, the CID is successfully fetched by the crawler. Thus, according to Meyerzon, the CID is obtained via a fetch operation performed by the crawler in an effort to retrieve a specific document from the document store. Performing a fetch of a CID from the document store in this manner is distinctly different than searching the document store.

Moreover, the metadata of claim 1 is concerned with information that describes attributes of media available through a communications network, not a CID having a value that is either a unique function of the physical storage location of a document or a unique function of the content of the document as described in Meyerzon. Examples describing the relationship between metadata and media are presented in the Dublin Core Metadata table listed on page 7 of the specification. Because the CID of Meyerzon is of such a different nature than the claimed metadata of claim 1, it is unclear to Applicant how the CID of Meyerzon could be parsed as a seed for a subsequent search operation in the manner as claimed in claim 1.

Furthermore, in order for Meyerzon to return a search result, a search has to be performed. According to Meyerzon, "[w]hen a user at the client computer desires to search for one or more electronic documents, the client computer transmits data to the search engine requesting a search" and "the search engine examines its associated index to find documents that may be desired by the user" and the search engine "return[s] a list of documents to the browser." (col. 7, lines 56-62). The search result, which, according to Meyerzon is the list of documents, is not parsed for metadata to use as a seed for a subsequent operation as claimed in claim 1.

Finally, the Examiner stated that "it is inherent in such addresses [for example, CIDs] that they must be parsed in order to determine their components" and that "Meyerzon is explicit about parsing in order to determine any useful information [COL 9

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lines 41-49]." (Office Action, p. 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees. As extensively discussed above, the CID is not returned as a search result or as part of a search result in Meyerzon. Moreover, the cited reference of Meyerzon discloses filtering the document fetched from the document store, which means parsing the document. (col. 9, lines 41-45). Parsing the document is distinctly different than Applicant's technique of parsing the search result of a search operation for metadata to use as a seed for a subsequent search operation. Thus, the cited reference cannot possibly suggest, disclose or teach "parsing said at least one search result for providing said metadata" as claimed in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over Meyerzon. Independent claims 8, 9, 10, and 16 are similarly patentable over Meyerzon for the same reasons, as are dependent claims 2-7, 11-15, and 18-21, which depend from the allowable independent claims.

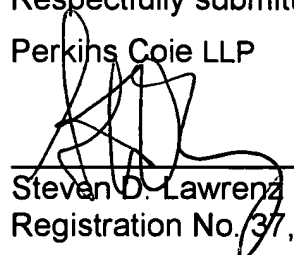
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-21 are allowable and asks that this application be passed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

Date: 7/2/04

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